

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01692 161606Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 /067 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6382

UNCLAS LISBON 1692

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PO

SUBJ: DISPUTE AT FIRESTONE PORTUGUESA SARL

REF: LISBON 1411

1. MARCH 16 NEWSPAPERS REPORTED FIRESTONE STRIKE ENDED YESTERDAY AFTER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LABOR, MARCELO CURTO, PROMISED TO HAVE FIRESTONE PAY RETROACTIVE SALARIES WITHIN 30 DAYS. PAYMENTS ALLEGEDLY WOULD BE BASED ON CRITERIA "DEFENDED" BY WORKERS. OFFICIAL LABOR MINISTRY NOTE "DISTINGUISHES" BETWEEN INITIAL ERRONEOUS WORKER METHODS SUCH AS LOCK-IN OF MANAGEMENT AND "TRUE AND REAL WORKERS' RIGHTS", I.E., RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.

2. FIRESTONE MANAGEMENT CLAIMED THAT PRESS REPORTS CAME AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE. IT ASSERTS THAT RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE AND THAT IT HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF REPORTED WORKER CRITERIA UPON WHICH SUCH PAYMENTS SHOULD BE BASED. COMPANY OFFICERS, DESPITE THEIR EFFORTS, HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO MEET WITH MINISTRY OF LABOR REPRESENTATIVES SINCE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10. MANAGEMENT BELIEVES WORKERS HAVE NOT ACTUALLY RETURNED TO WORK, BUT THAT THEY WILL MEET THIS AFTERNOON TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO END STRIKE.

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PAGE 02 LISBON 01692 161606Z

WORKERS CURRENTLY ON STRIKE HAVE TAKEN POSSESSION OF

FACTORY, BUT WORKERS IN THREE OTHER FIRESTONE INSTALLATIONS
HAVE NOT JOINED STRIKE.

3. EMBASSY EFFORTS TO CONTACT LABOR MINISTRY TODAY HAVE
BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. ATTEMPTING TO DISCUSS QUESTION
WITH DR. GAMA VIEIRA, CHIEF OF CABINET TO MARCELO CURTO,
WHO HAS BEEN HANDLING FIRESTONE DISPUTE.
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Message Attributes

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